



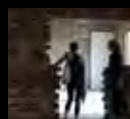
► Interclub IRB assistance to Bellinger Valley North Beach

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► Vale  
Graham Gee

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► Clubhouse Development update

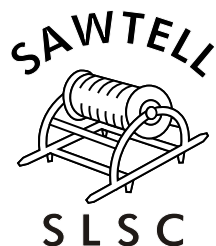
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► Coffs Ocean Swim 2020

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NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2019



## Message from the President

*Our Club was very sad to farewell Graham Gee who passed away after succumbing to a long illness last month. Graham was a true gentleman and one of our Life members who could often be seen right up to a few months ago, paddling his ski out the back. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Sue and all of Graham's family.*

Our good friends at TAS have also suffered a tragic loss following the death of Murray Guest, their beloved school principal of many years who died in a car accident. Murray was very 'hands on' in his Principal role and always made an effort to travel to Sawtell during the TAS 'Bronze Week', joining students and the club training crew for dinner at the club. Our thoughts are with Murray's family and with the TAS school community. We are looking forward to hosting the TAS crew again at the end of the month and hopefully we can make it a healing and positive experience for them all following this sad event.

The season is ticking along nicely with patrols running smoothly and no major incidents. Patrolling is the key focus of what we do. What is not so obvious is all that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that patrolling equipment is in good order and patrol members are well trained and prepared for the season. Thank you to our trainers, coaches, patrol captains and Club leaders who ensure the operational aspects of the club are in good order.

How great to see our up and coming Class of 2019 Bronze Medallion newbies being put through their paces by Kel and Leanne over the past few weeks - they even look like they're enjoying it! If you are contemplating doing your Bronze or thinking about ways you can contribute to the club (there are some roles that don't require getting wet!) – please contact anyone on the committee to find out how you might be able to get involved.

Sponsors are very important to our Club. A full list of our sponsors appears at the end of this newsletter and I encourage you to support them. We will be holding an event at the end of November to acknowledge and recognise our sponsors, as well as 'cutting the ribbon' on the new balcony off the members room, and on the (soon to be competed) Stage One addition of the Patrol room. It is very exciting to see it all coming together and I think our new patrol room and downstairs storage area will make a big positive difference to our operations this season. A big thank you to Leanne Stuart who ►

# UPCOMING 5 DATES

- **COMBINED CARNIVAL  
WOOLGOOLGA**  
17 November
- **TAS VISIT –  
BRONZE TRAINING**  
24 – 29 November
- **SECOND PROFICIENCY**  
1 December
- **INTER-BRANCH  
BULLI**  
7 – 8 December
- **NIPPERS CHRISTMAS  
PARTY**  
15 December

## PATROL UNIFORMS



Another reminder to any active member requiring a replacement uniform for whatever reason is asked to email the Secretary via [secretary@sawtellsurfclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@sawtellsurfclub.com.au) indicating whether they need a shirt/shorts and the size.

► has been working tirelessly to organise the Sponsor thank you event, collaborating with the nine o'clock swimmers to smarten up the members room and liaising with the Sawtell Chamber of commerce to identify yet more opportunities for sponsorship and community support for the club.

The competition season has started and this past weekend our Club competed at the iconic Jetty Carnival which is one of my favourites – I love seeing all the clubs in our branches so well represented and a huge cohort of keen young nippers having a go at what is often their first carnival. The conditions and weather were kind on the day and the event couldn't have gone more smoothly. The Woolgoolga Carnival will be in a couple of weeks and this carnival is a final selection opportunity for those vying for a spot in the Interbranch team.

I also had the opportunity to see a number of our club members participate in the Coolangatta Gold event on the Gold Coast in October. This is truly the pinnacle of surf sports competition with all the big names on the start line, along with a huge contingent of other competitors who are keen to test their strength and endurance. Thankfully the day delivered reasonably favourable conditions and the Sawtell competitors did themselves proud in completing what is a very tough event – either individually or as part of a team

**See you on the beach!**



**Sheena McTackett**  
**0477 771 481**

## Message from Publicity & Sponsorship Officer



A reminder the Sawtell Summer Sessions will start this **Saturday 8 November at 4pm**. Live Bands will be performing outside the Hotel & RSL club and there will be kids jumping castles, rides and activities.

Future dates are:

- Thursday 12 December  
Christmas Street Party
- Saturday 25 January  
Australia Day theme
- Saturday 22 February
- Saturday 28 March  
2020 Barney Miller Surf Classic

The Surf club will be providing First Aid at all Summer Sessions. **Please contact Leanne Stuart if you are available to help for an hour or so.**



**Leanne Stuart**  
**0414 892 838**

# Message from Club Captain

*The 2019 – 2020 patrol season has got off to a good start with the usual start-up issues to be dealt with. I would like to thank everyone for stepping up to help when needed to ensure that we could always provide high quality lifesaving services on the beach at Sawtell.*

The weather for many of the patrols to date has been horrible. We have no choice but to continue to remain on patrol even when there is no one in the water and or if the beach is closed.

The depth of talent and strength of our club is something that we can all be proud of. A recent example was created by the unexpected resignation of one of our patrol captains. Despite no warning two suitably qualified members were immediately available to fill the position on the day with another member also volunteering to help the patrol. I'm very pleased that Fiona Lane has accepted my invitation for her to become the Patrol Captain of Patrol 12. Fiona has been a member of the club since commencing as a nipper in 2002. She has been an active and valued member of my patrol since obtaining her SRC in 2006. Fiona's move to Patrol Captain is in recognition of her skills and abilities demonstrated during her long history patrolling and contributions to the club in many other ways, including as a Bronze Trainer and Surf Sports Official. Fiona has also represented the Club in the SLS State 18 -25 years Development Program and State Lifesaving Exchange Program.

I would like to thank every patrol for using the Patrol Operations App either on the Club's Samsung Tablet or on their own phone. While the App still has its quirks and is not nearly as reliable as we would all expect its continued use is valuable to the Club and to SLS generally. The most common issue found to date is not ensuring the patrol members attendance and sign on and off times in the app are the same as those recorded in the Patrol Log books so give this more attention please. I am working with SLS to try to get some improvements to the App on our Samsung.



**Steve Rayson**  
**0429 025 845**

## The club has been requested to help Bellinger Valley / North Beach with IRB Drivers and Crew for one of their patrols for the rest of this season.

The dates we are doing this and the patrols I have rostered to supply the Drivers and Crews for this duty if possible are at right. Thanks to Greg Vigors and Steve Foster for looking after 10 November for us.

Every year the club submits one order for wind and (somewhat) waterproof Patrol Jackets. These cost \$55 each which is payable by the member on delivery of the jacket. The sizes range from XS to 3XL. If anyone wants to purchase a patrol jacket please email me with your size. The one and only order for this season will be submitted on **Monday 2 December**.

Scott and I recently had to repair the floor in the Achilles IRB because the hinge was broken. The primary cause of this type of damage is a failure to ensure that the IRB is always inflated to the correct pressure. Quite simply low inflation pressure leads to increased flexing of the hull which causes damage to the floor. We will be conducting spot checks of hull inflation pressures in future and if any driver is found to be using an IRB without the proper pre-operation checks then their authority to operate the IRB will be withdrawn. Damage caused by fair wear and tear is expected and accepted. Damage caused by neglect is not acceptable.

### SAWTELL IRB DRIVERS & CREW AID TO BELLINGER VALLEY/ NORTH BEACH

Patrol 3	Sunday 10 November
Patrol 4	Sunday 8 December
Patrol 7	Sunday 12 January
Patrol 8	Sunday 26 January
Patrol 9	Sunday 16 February
Patrol 10	Sunday 15 March
Patrol 11	Good Friday 10 April
Patrol 12	Saturday 18 April

# Nipper News

Every parent wants their child to lead a happy, healthy and active youth. There is no better place for this than introducing your child to surf lifesaving and nippers. Nippers is about learning new skills, gaining confidence and having fun in a safe beach environment. For Nippers, the beach is the classroom. They gain confidence by passing the 'tests' of swimming, board paddling, beach sprinting, dolphin-diving, spotting a rip, having fun with new friends and discovering things about themselves. The youth of today are the future of Surf Life Saving, and the Nippers pathway teaches lessons and skills, allowing them to continue in lifesaving and sport as they grow older.

This year we have approximately 130 Nippers enrolled and the season is well underway with the first Branch Carnival being held at the Jetty on Sunday 3 November. Sawtell performed very well, winning the overall point score with 419 points. Coffs Harbour came second with 367 points, Woolgoolga third with 230 points, Nambucca Heads fourth with 149 points, Urunga fifth with 83 points, Minnie Water-Wooli sixth with 44 points and Bellinger Valley-North Beach seventh with 8 points.

Our next carnival is at Woolgoolga on **Sunday 17 November** and we look forward to seeing as many Nippers and their parents and carers as possible there.

**Tiffany Easman**  
**0437 000 030**

## CLASSES HELD AT THE CLUB

A range of classes are held at the Club during the week.

If interested and would like to know more please contact the following:

CLASS	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	PHONE
GIRLFIT	MON - SAT	► 6AM	Nicola Sagar	0417 045 825
GENTLE EXERCISE	MON	► 9AM	Lyn Hollyman	0411 054 329
SAWTELL UKELELE GROUP	MON	► 4.30PM	Stephanie Sims	0421 346 713
TAI CHI	WED	► 9AM	Carole Hartman	0429 174 646
KIDS HULA HOOPS (3/4 hr)	WED	► 4PM	Justine Almond	044 928 218
ADULT BEGINNER HOOPS	WED	► 5PM	Justine Almond	044 928 218
YOGA	SAT	► 7.30AM	Natalie Almond	0411 494 926

## VALE GRAHAM GEE

Graham loved Sawtell and its community. He had a natural generosity for helping people, and was both appreciated, and loved, in return.

He obtained his Bronze Medallion in May 1984 at Sawtell with the Club remaining an important part of his life for the next 35 years. During this time Graham has filled the roles of Patrol Captain, IRB Captain and Club President as well as the Club Caretaker. For his contribution to the Club Graham was awarded Life Membership in June 2003. In all these roles, his wife Sue, provided constant encouragement and support, whilst also patrolling with him.

As IRB Captain, his skills, from his time as a Qantas mechanical engineer, were particularly suited to the maintenance and performance of the IRBs that he serviced meticulously. He also fine-tuned them for competitive racing, and sourced many of the vintage tractors that towed them on and off the beach. He competed at Carnivals in the ski, board, run, and flags, at both Open and Master's level.



With his good mate Kerry Bayliss, Graham helped coordinate the construction of the original Surf Cafe's paved outdoor area. Once, whilst enjoying a coffee here with his mates, it was noted, that the top rail of the lawn's boundary fence (now completely gone) was obscuring the view of the ocean. The next day the top railing had been chain-sawed off. Graham's philosophy was that "It is easier to ask for forgiveness than it is to get permission."

He had an interest in restoration, especially nostalgic items. Testament to this, is an original wooden ski, the JJ, and the Club bell.

**"And therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee."**

## ABC BACKGROUND BRIEFING REPORT ON SLS MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

This broadcast was well worth listening to. Amongst other things it includes some interesting content regarding IRB equipment.

[https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2019/09/bbg\\_20190915\\_0805.mp3](https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2019/09/bbg_20190915_0805.mp3)

# Building Development Update

Stage 1 construction work is now nearing completion. The new building extension is almost at lock-up stage with the roof, walls, windows and the majority of the doors in place. Waterproofing of the lower level external wall will proceed shortly to allow the deep cavity to be backfilled. The internal fit-out of the patrol and first aid rooms will also soon be underway including ceilings, cabinetry, epoxy floor, plumbing and electrical services. This will coincide with other final external work involving additional stormwater measures, conduit installation, the new paved driveway, a paved terrace fronting the patrol room, and a paved board wash-down area adjacent to the IRB shed. An aluminium awning matching the existing structure will also be installed to extend across the front of the new patrol room and kiosk entry area.

Completion of the new members room balcony is awaiting installation of a metal balustrade in November.

**Garry Murray**  
**0428 517 665**



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## ACCESS TO AUDITORIUM

Your Club willingly makes available the Auditorium for community groups to conduct meetings and activities for which use the Club charges a fee. Further the Club wishes to minimise the disruption to kiosk patrons by walking through tables.

As a result of the increasing use of this facility the Club has applied for a grant under the Community Grants Program to update this facility through improvements such as better floor covering, improved lighting and the like.

At the same time the Club has committed funds to improve the amenity of the upstairs members room with a replacement balcony nearing completion. As a direct consequence of these two steps the Club has seen fit to tighten up the access to the club auditorium/training room. Another reason for this is that when the general public using the kiosk see continual access into the Clubhouse they assume that the public toilet facilities are located in the Club which is not the case.

Accordingly the Club proposes the following guidelines meaning the Club would not need to "police" those entering the auditorium. The Club will consider permanent locking of the auditorium doors if the unfettered access continues.

- > All members make use of the downstairs storage area, existing bike racks or the upstairs members room to store their equipment.
- > No non-members to be allowed into the clubhouse or to use the showers as this is an insurance issue.
- > Respect the fact that the showers are gender specific.
- > If accessing the gym and a class is in progress the member to use a downstairs entrance. No member to be using the gym unless correctly inducted.
- > No going into the clubhouse to use the toilet facilities when there are other such facilities in both the members room and in the downstairs public toilets.
- > No entering into the auditorium area if a class is being held. These users pay for the right to use this facility and expect it to be clean and for their class not to be disrupted.
- > Please be aware that any clothing items/towels left around will be moved to the Lost Property Box in the Members room which in turn will be given to charity monthly.
- > The Club willingly let members make use of the facility as has occurred in the past (e.g. Year 12 Study Groups/ sleepovers) but in return ask for your respect – namely to let the Club know the what, when and why.

The auditorium will be available for Nippers on a Sunday morning **if weather conditions dictate**. As there is likely to be training in the Training Room at that time Age Managers and Parents are expected to monitor the Nipper's behaviour.

Your feedback as to how to ensure our Clubhouse is well used and respected will be welcome.

## COFFS OCEAN SWIMS



Following the decision by Village Sports to have a well-earned break from their organisation of this community event Sawtell SLSC was approached to see if we were willing to organise this event. Your Club has been actively involved in this event over the years not only with many members participating but also as the main provider of water safety and first aid. It is highly likely that this past support is why Sawtell was approached to run the event. To ensure the event is a success the Club is now relying not only on your support both before and on the day but any ideas you may have on any aspect of this event.

The date set aside for the Ocean Swim is **April 5 2020** so please note it in your diary now. The Club Race Director is **Kerry Bayliss 0408 533 182** who has been involved in the running of the Sawtell SLSC Quadrathlon back in the 1980s as well as the Coffs Tri. Kerry however will need your support as there are a range of tasks to undertake. As they say many hands make light work. Please touch base with Kerry.

## MANY THANKS TO bcu

bcu sponsored our great new marquees.





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## CONTACT

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## COMMITTEE & CLUB EMAILS

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**G.J. Gardner. HOMES**



**BACK ON TRACK**  
Muscle Neurology Clinic



and Relaxation Massage



**MANY THANKS♥**

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